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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,845	01/05/2004	Sung-Chul Kang	YOM-0205	3873
23413	7590	06/27/2006		
CANTOR COLBURN, LLP 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002			EXAMINER CHU, JOHN S Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1752

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,845

Applicant(s)

KANG ET AL.

Examiner

John S. Chu

Art Unit

1752

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 and 16-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the amendment filed June 2, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11-14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JEFFRIES, III et al (5,346,799) or EBERSOLE (5,324,620) in view of KODAMA et al (5,853,949) SHERIFF et al (6,117,610) and GRACIA et al (6,232,031 B1).

The claimed invention has been recited hereafter:

11. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a photoresist composition to an MMN head coater, wherein the photoresist composition comprises:

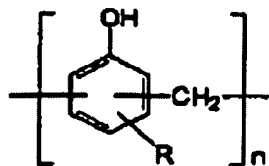
(a) 5 wt% to 30 wt% of a polymer resin represented by the following Chemical Formula 1;

(b) 2 wt% to 10 wt% of a diazide photoactive compound;

(c) 50 wt% to 90 wt% of an organic solvent; and

(d) 500 to 4000 ppm of a Si based surfactant:

Chemical Formula 1



wherein R is C₁ to C₄ alkyl, and n is an integer of 15 to 10,000, and wherein the Si-based surfactant is a polyoxyalkylene dimethylpolysiloxane copolymer compound.

Art Unit: 1752

and is included by reference wherein claim 6 is further drawn to the addition of a crosslinking agent is shown below:

**16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 11,
wherein the composition further comprises one or more nitrogen-containing crosslinking agents selected from the group consisting of a condensation product of urea and formaldehyde, a condensation product of melamine and formaldehyde, a methylol urea alkyl aldehyde condensate, a methylol urea alkylether, and a methylol melamine alkylether.**

Each of JEFFRIES, III et al, or EBERSOLE recite a photoresist composition comprising a S-based surfactant in a composition comprising a novolak resin and a quinonediazide compound. Said references fail to teach the use of a crosslinking agent in the photoresist composition as currently recited in claim 6.

KODAMA et al '949 discloses a positive photoresist composition comprising a novolak resin and a quinonediazide compound with the addition of a polyphenol compound, see column 6, lines 32 – column 7, line 60 for the alkali-soluble resin and photosensitive compound.

Applicants are directed to column 11, lines 46-51 wherein KODAMA et al teaches the use of surfactants being Si-based. In fact the same surfactants as disclosed in JEFFRIES, III et al and EBERSOLE are disclosed here in KODAMA et al, see the surfactant trade name of FLORAD FC-430 in column 11, line 46.

The primary disclosure which the examiner relies on is found in column 12, lines 40-56 wherein KODAMA et al discloses the suitable use of crosslinking agents which serve to improve the dry etching resistance, improve sensitivity and heat resistance, yet not alter the positive working property of the photoresist composition. Specific crosslinking agents include

Art Unit: 1752

melamine-formaldehyde and others like benzoguanamine and glycouril-formaldehyde. Thus the skilled artisan is motivated to use such components to improve the photoresist image that is formed.

Each of SHERIFF et al and GRACIA et al are cited of interest with respect to the use of polyether modified dimethylpolysiloxane copolymer surfactants. The Examples 3-6 in SHERIFF et al disclose the following attached:

EXAMPLES 3-6

Four imaging compositions and plates of the present invention were prepared using the following components:

COMPONENT	Example 3 (grams)	Example 4 (grams)	Example 5 (grams)	Example 6 (grams)
Cresol-formaldehyde novolac resin	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
2,4-Bis(2-diazo-1,2-dihydro-1-oxo-5-naphthalenesulfonyloxy) benzo-phenone	1.154	1.154	1.154	1.154
Carbon black	0.108	0.217	0.434	0.868
1-Methoxy-2-propanol solvent	88.118	88.009	87.792	87.358
Acetone	5.881	5.881	5.881	5.881
CG-21-1005	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108
BYK-307	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011

CG 21-1005 is a dye available from Ciba-Geigy.

BYK-307 is a polyether-modified polydimethylsiloxane available from BYK-Chemie.

wherein BYK-307 is a surfactant as claimed in claim 11.

GRACIA et al likewise discloses the use of BYK 344 surfactant in Examples 1-4 in a composition with a quinone diazide compound and a novolak resin. Here the use of a polyoxyalkylene dimethylpolysiloxane copolymer surfactant is taught in a composition for photolithographic compositions comprising a diazide compound a phenol novolak resin and a

Art Unit: 1752

solvent. BYK 333 and BYK 344 are attached with their product descriptions from the BYK-Chemie product list.

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of positive photoresist compositions to add a crosslinking agent, such as melamine-formaldehyde into the photoresist composition of JEFFRIES, III et al or EBERSOLE as an agent to improve dry etching resistance, and heat resistance and reasonably expect same or similar results as disclosed in JEFFRIES, III et al or EBERSOLE for high thermal resistance and low scumming upon development.

It also would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of photolithographic compositions and coating methods to add the known surfactants as disclosed in SHERIFF et al and GRACIA et al into the compositions of JEFFRIES, III et al, EBERSOLE and reasonably expect same or similar results with respect to having compositions with high thermal resistance.

The argument by applicant have been carefully considered, however it is believed that a *prima facie* case of obviousness is present wherein the claimed amounts of the surfactant is actually disclosed by SHERIFF et al and GRACIA et al to be conventional ranges wherein GRACIA et al discloses his surfactant to be in an amount of 0.08% as seen in the following table in Example 1:

Art Unit: 1752

EXAMPLE 1

An 830 nm laser plate coating was prepared with an absorbing dye to diazonaphthoquinone weight ratio of 3:1 using the following formulation:

	weight %
Arcosolv FM solvent	59.927
Dimethyl formamide solvent	9.244
Ethanol solvent	22.829
KR 100 cresol formaldehyde resin	7.402
PS 105 diazonaphthoquinone sensitizer	0.185
830A infra-red absorbing dye	0.185
KR 700 coloring dye	0.148
BYK 344 surfactant	0.080

Note: PS 105 diazonaphthoquinone sensitizer is 33% diazonaphthoquinone and 67% phenolic resin.

The coating was applied to an aluminum substrate that was previously brush grained, anodized and silicated. The coat weight was 190 mg/ft². After coating, the plate was dried at 90° C. for four minutes. Next the plate was placed in a Creo Trendsetter imager equipped with a 20 watt 830 nm laser. The plate was imaged at a drum speed of 180 RPM and a laser power setting of 10 watts. On exiting the imager, the imaged plate was placed in a plate processor containing an alkaline developer. The processing speed was 4 ft/min with the following developer formulation:

Examples 2-4 also use the surfactant in an amount of 0.08% which falls in the claimed range of 500 to 4000 ppm.

The rejection is repeated and made final.

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

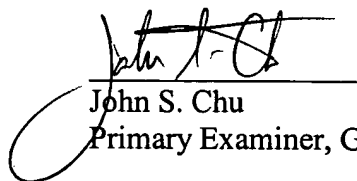
Art Unit: 1752

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Chu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1329. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly, can be reached on (571) 272-1526

The fax phone number for the USPTO is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PMR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John S. Chu
Primary Examiner, Group 1700

J.Chu
June 21, 2006